

Today's News - Thursday, April 21, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, April 26. And don't forget to celebrate Earth Day (full moon included!) on Saturday - and every day!

- Erlanger explores the road forward for ZHA: "it is falling to Patrik Schumacher to pick up the pieces: keep the staff together, the work flow strong and the clients happy. Even more, he must step forward to give Zaha Hadid Architects a new identity."
- Stratigakos considers why "architecture remains a tough profession for women to crack. After more than a century, it really shouldn't still be this way."
- Baillieu outlines five reasons why the Panama Papers "raise questions for architects, too. Greater transparency is good news for the profession - but not necessarily in the way you might think."
- More than 150 U.S. architects hope to collaborate with their Cuban counterparts as part of joint effort to save Old Havana.
- ShoP's proposed 73-story supertall proposed in Downtown Brooklyn gets the green light.
- Eyeful (by Baan) of OMA's "striking" Pierre Lassonde Pavilion at the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, set to open in June.
- A striking shortlist of eight "celebrated and emerging architecture practices" in the running for the Art Mill waterfront cultural district in Doha, Qatar.
- A (great) Q&A with Shigeru Ban re: "how permanence has become temporary in architecture, how temporary can sometimes become permanent, and what the responsibility of the designer is to help make a better world."
- Davidson waxes poetically (and technically) about how NYC's new LED streetlights "are robbing nighttime of its romance. The firelight yellow of sodium-vapor streetlights is giving way to the clinical pallor of light-emitting diodes" (but there is good news).
- In honor of Earth Day: Thorpe cheers a U.K. company that "has developed a prefabricated deep retrofit kit that aims to get homes to Passivhaus standard."
- The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County launches an initiative that "could break new ground for urban nature research in other biodiversity hotspots" (useful to urban planning, too!).
- Call for entries: 2016 Faith & Form/IFRAA International Awards Program for Religious Art & Architecture.
- Weekend diversions:
- Welton cheers "The House that Modernism Built" at Botta's Bechtler Museum in Charlotte, NC, that "looks not just at modernism in all its manifestations from 1920 to 1980, but also at how design affects our daily lives today."
- In Frankfurt, "Between the sun and the moon - Studio Mumbai - The rediscovery of Indian handcraft" explores how and why the firm has "captured the hearts and minds of many with their tactile, immaculately executed works."
- Paletta gives thumbs-up to Stratigakos's "Where Are the Women Architects?" - an "excellent primer if you already are concerned about the topic - but especially if you are not."
- Moore gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Calder's "Raw Concrete: The Beauty of Brutalism": it "will please both its aficionados and those who find it hard to love - a readable, informative, if sometimes eccentric, account for those drawn towards these ex-monstrosities, and for those who wonder what it's all about."
- TCLF releases an oral history of Harriet Pattison, who "reveals how she approached her work, life, and Louis Kahn," just in time for a Pattison exhibit at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design.
- "The Prison in Twelve Landscapes" explores "the ways mass incarceration affects the country's physical and social spaces" - definitely something to check out "if you love probing documentaries and hate prisons."

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Grieving and Going Forward: How Zaha Hadid's Firm Plans to Move On: ...it is falling to Patrik Schumacher...to pick up the pieces: keep the staff together, the work flow strong and the clients happy...Even more, he must step forward to give...Zaha Hadid Architects a new identity while honoring and maintaining Ms. Hadid's sinuous legacy. By Steven Erlanger- New York Times

Op-Ed: Why is the world of architecture so male-dominated? Architecture remains a tough profession for women to crack...For more than 130 years, women have been trying to secure a foothold in architecture...deeply entrenched biases remain...After more than a century, it really shouldn't still be this way. By Despina Stratigakos -- Equity by Design; ArchiteXX- Los Angeles Times

Why the Panama Papers raise questions for architects too: Greater transparency is good news for the profession - but not necessarily in the way you might think: With transparency...future architects will be able to make more informed decisions about who they work for, and that might finally lead to a more ethically coherent vision the profession so urgently needs. By Amanda Baillieu- BD/Building Design (UK)

U.S. and Cuban architects collaborate to save Old Havana: More than 150 American architects arrived in Havana this week as part of joint efforts with their Cuban counterparts to restore the glory and grandeur of Old Havana's architectural heritage. -- American Institute of Architects (AIA)- Eagle News PH (Philippines)

It's Official: Brooklyn Is Getting That 1,000-Foot Skyscraper: ...will dominate the borough's skyline, standing almost double the size of any other building...looming over Downtown Brooklyn at 9 Dekalb Avenue...will incorporate landmark [Dime Savings Bank] into the skyscraper...will stretch 73 floors and consist of about 500 units... -- SHoP Architects [images]- New York Magazine

Opening date announced for OMA's striking, stepped Quebec museum expansion: ...will open to the public on 21 June...semi-transparent Pierre Lassonde Pavilion...will increase exhibition space in the 83-year-old Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ) by 90%. (photos by Iwan Baan) -- Rem Koolhaas/Sho Shigematsu/Office for Metropolitan Architecture; Provencher_Roy + Associés [images]- CLAD (Community of Leisure Architects & Designers)

Aravena and Piano among the architects in competition for Art Mill cultural district in Qatar: A shortlist of eight celebrated and emerging architecture practices...for the final stage of an international architecture competition to design a waterfront arts district in Doha. -- Adam Khan Architects; Atelier Bow-Wow/EAA Emre Arolat Architecture; Alajandro Aravena/Elemental/junya.ishigami + associates; Mangado & Asociados/Renzo Piano Building Workshop; Rice+Lipka Architects - CLAD (Community of Leisure Architects & Designers)

The (Im)Permanence of Paper: An Interview with Shigeru Ban: ...how permanence has become temporary in architecture, how temporary can sometimes become permanent, and what the responsibility of the designer is to help make a better world..."For me, there is no difference between normal commissioned work and disaster relief projects. The importance of each project is the same." -- Voluntary Architects' Network [images]- Impact Design Hub (formerly PublicInterestDesign.org)

New York's New Streetlights Are Robbing Nighttime of Its Romance: The firelight yellow of sodium-vapor streetlights is giving way to the clinical pallor of light-emitting diodes: LEDs aren't inherently evil...The good news is that the technology afflicting us also gives us the power to curate the city's glow. By Justin Davidson- New York Magazine

A prefab approach for a Passivhaus deep retrofit: A British company has developed a prefabricated deep retrofit kit that aims to get homes to Passivhaus standard: Beattie Passive Retrofit has secured patents in 57 countries for its innovative

solution...also involves using locally trained labour. By David Thorpe- The Fifth Estate (Australia)

LA, a surprise nature hotspot, is home to one of the biggest biodiversity studies: Los Angeles - synonymous with cars, concrete and urban sprawl - turns out to possess a secret, thriving underworld: nature...one of the world's most diverse ecosystems...[Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County] initiative could break new ground for urban nature research in other biodiversity hotspots.- Guardian (UK)

Call for entries: 2016 Faith & Form/IFRAA International Awards Program for Religious Art & Architecture: Religious Architecture, Liturgical/Interior Design, Sacred Landscape, Religious Arts, and Unbuilt Work; deadline: June 30- Faith & Form Magazine / Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture (IFRAA)

"The House that Modernism Built": ...the modern movement is alive and well in North Carolina. And what better venue could there be for an exhibition of the virtues of that aesthetic than Mario Botta's 2010 terra cotta-clad Bechtler Museum of Modern Art in forward-thinking Charlotte? ...[show] looks not just at modernism in all its manifestations from 1920 to 1980, but also at how design affects our daily lives today. By J. Michael Welton [images]- Huffington Post

Indian craft: a Frankfurt exhibition explores the work of Studio Mumbai: "Between the sun and the moon - Studio Mumbai - The rediscovery of Indian handcraft" at the Deutsches Architekturmuseum...The India-based firm was set up in 2005 by Bijoy Jain and has since captured the hearts and minds of many with their tactile, immaculately executed works.- Wallpaper*

"Where Are the Women Architects?" by Despina Stratigakos: ...a nuanced effort...offers a wide-ranging examination of why expansion of the role of women in architecture has continued to be so slow...an excellent primer if you already are concerned about the topic - but especially if you are not. By Anthony Paletta- Urban Land Magazine (Urban Land Institute/ULI))

"Raw Concrete: The Beauty of Brutalism" by Barnabas Calder: This celebration of all things concrete will please both its aficionados and those who find it hard to love: ...a readable, informative, if sometimes eccentric, account...an engaging and accessible guide for those drawn towards these ex-monstrosities, and for those who wonder what it's all about. By Rowan Moore- Observer (UK)

The stories of Harriet Pattison, landscape architect and companion of Louis Kahn: ...The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) is releasing a 93-minute oral history...Pattison reveals how she approached her work, life, and Kahn...coincides with an exhibit opening...at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design, "Harriet Pattison: Gardens & Landscapes." [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

A new film explores the effect of mass incarceration on the American landscape: Instead dropping fact bombs, "The Prison in Twelve Landscapes" traces the ways mass incarceration affects the country's physical and social spaces...If you love probing documentaries and hate prisons, check out the film's upcoming screenings.- The Architect's Newspaper

ANN feature: Zaha. A special issue: I didn't know Zaha Hadid. We met once - in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, of all places. My encounter with her left an indelible impression. By Kristen Richards- ArchNewsNow.com



Urban-Think Tank (U-TT): Empower Shack, Cape Town, South Africa: ...a growing group of architects...who have reframed their perspective on the urban condition of the slum - not as a problem but as a solution...shacks became the basis for a prototype housing unit designed in collaboration with the local community. By Nina Tory-Henderson -- Design Space Africa [images]

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